

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 4.

Please amend Claims 1 and 5 as follows:

--1. (Amended) A process for the hydrogenation of acetone, which comprises:
conducting the liquid-phase hydrogenation of acetone having a water content of less than or equal to 1.0% by weight in at least two hydrogenation process stages, thereby preparing isopropanol product.

5. (Amended) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the acetone to be hydrogenated has a water content of less than or equal to 0.5% by weight.--

Please add new Claims 13-15 as follows:

--13. (Newly Added) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the total concentration of by-products formed in said liquid-phase hydrogenation reaction is less than 300 ppm.

14. (Newly Added) The process as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said total amount of by-products is less than 200 ppm.

15. (Newly Added) The process of Claim 14, wherein the total amount of by-products is less than 100 ppm.--

REMARKS



Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 1-3 and 5-12 and new Claims 13-15 are active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants' Representative wishes to thank Examiners Price and Richter for the helpful and courteous interview dated March 2, 2001. As a result of the discussion, it is believed that the issues in the case have been clarified and that the prosecution of the application has been